

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

SB 655 - HB 914

February 26, 2023

SUMMARY OF BILL: Authorizes the court to require, as a condition of allowing a child to remain with their parents or guardian when the child is under the age of three and has been found to be dependent and neglected and diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome, submission of documentation to the Department of Children's Services (DCS) of a well-baby routine examination by a licensed physician at six weeks of age, three months of age, at three-month intervals thereafter during the child's first year of life, and then at six-months intervals during the child's second and third years of life.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures – \$37,400/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years

Increase Federal Expenditures – \$25,100/FY23-24 and Subsequent Years

Assumptions:

- According to information included in the Department of Health's *Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Surveillance Annual Report 2020*, there is currently an estimated 861 children who would qualify to have the required well-baby routine examinations.
- For purposes of this analysis, it is assumed that this number remains constant.
- The well-baby examination schedule calls for five exams in the child's first year of life, and two exams in both their second and third year of life; therefore, the average of three $(5 + 2 + 2) / 3$ years) exams per year will be used for this analysis.
- DCS will be required to process and analyze 2,583 $(861 \times 3 \text{ exams})$ exam documentations per year.
- Based on DCS's *Annual Report: State Fiscal Year July 2021-June 2022*, the average time it takes a child in DCS custody to reach permanency is about one year.
- It is assumed that once a child reaches permanency, DCS will no longer have a case worker actively working their case.
- Therefore, one third of the cases, specifically those within their first year, will already have a case manager assigned to them.
- Assuming each document takes one hour to properly process and analyze, this will create 2,583 additional work hours for DCS, one third of which will be covered by existing case managers.
- Therefore, there will be 1,722 $(2,583 \times 2/3)$ new work hours created, which would create the need for one $(1,722 \text{ total hours} / 2,000 \text{ work hours per year})$ new employee.

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- One new Administrative Services Assistant will create an increase in expenditures of \$62,490 (\$47,304 salary + \$15,186 benefits) in FY23-24 and subsequent years, and will be paid for with:
 - 44 percent, or \$27,496 ($\$62,490 \times 44\%$) DCS state funding,
 - 10 percent, or \$6,249 ($\$62,490 \times 10\%$) Title IV-E federal funding, and
 - 46 percent TennCare funding, which is comprised of
 - \$18,824 ($\$62,490 \times 46\% \times 65.485\%$) federal funding and
 - \$9,921 ($\$62,490 \times 46\% \times 34.515\%$) state funding.
- The total increase in state expenditures as a result of the proposed legislation is \$37,417 ($\$27,496 + \$9,921$) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.
- The total increase in federal expenditures as a result of the proposed legislation is \$25,073 ($\$6,249 + \$18,824$) in FY23-24 and subsequent years.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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